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This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A medical needle (10), comprising an inner needle (20) which is inserted into living tissue, and a hollow cylindrical outer tube needle (30) which is inserted into the living tissue together with the inner needle (20), with the inner needle (20) being inserted therewith, and is retained in the living tissue after the inner needle (20) is removed, wherein

the tip portion of the inner needle (20) extending out of the front end bore of said outer tube needle (30) is formed as a spherical crown portion (24) which is capable of being inserted along a punctured hole previously formed in the living tissue so as not to damage the lumen of the punctured hole, and said inner needle (20) comprises:

a main body portion (21) which is formed to have an outside diameter which is approximately equal to the inside diameter of said outer tube needle (30);

a tapered portion (22) which integrally connects to the front end portion of the main body portion (21), extends along the axis of the main body portion (21), being gradually decreased in diameter, and extends out of the front end bore of said outer tube needle (30); and

a small-diameter portion (23) which further extends a prescribed length from the front end portion of the tapered portion (22) along said axis, having a diameter which is approximately equal to the smallest diameter of the front end portion thereof, and the tip portion of the

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small-diameter portion (23) is formed as said spherical crown portion (24).

2. (original) The medical needle (10) of claim 1, wherein said inner needle (20) is formed in the shape of a solid rod-like over the entire length thereof.

3. (original) The medical needle (10) of claim 1, wherein said inner needle (20a) is provided with a through hole (25) which substantially passes through the axis over the entire length thereof.

4. (canceled)

5. (currently amended) The medical needle (10) of claim [[4]] 1, wherein the diameter of said spherical crown portion (24A) is adapted to be larger than the outside diameter of said small-diameter portion (23).

6. (currently amended) The medical needle (10) of claim [[4]] 1, wherein the diameter of said spherical crown portion (24B) is adapted to be approximately equal to the outside diameter of said small-diameter portion (23).